## NEW YORK TIMES, MON

# RRIMAN BACKS O POWER PACTS

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Supreme Court justice and now special counsel to the Power Authority, is credited with having played an important role in rence powinning Mr. Harriman's approval of the contracts.

They have been under heavy attack from the Liberal party, the State Congress of Industrial Organizations and some Democrats. It has been argued that the contracts represented an important departure from Democratic party policy on public power as formulated by the late Franklin D. Roosevelt when he was Governor.

As originally conceived the primary purpose to be served by public development of St. Lawrence power was to force public utilities to reduce their rates, particularly those charged to rural and domestic customers. If marketed through municipal or nonprofit cooperative distribution systems, St. Lawrence power, it was argued, would serve as a "yardstick" to measure the fairness of rates charged by private companies.

Governor Harriman based his approval of the Reynollds contract today on the contention that it would bring needed new manufacturing industry into the state and help bolster the economy of the St. Lawrence Valley. On a per capita basis, incomes in the North Country are the owest of any region in the state.

A statement on the Niagara Mohawk contract drew attention to provisions authorizing the Power Authority to withdraw part of the current involved if it should be required to meet the needs of municipal or nonprofit rooperative distribution systems.

Pacts to Be Signed Today

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

